



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,416	11/27/2001	James L. Baggot	KCX-297 (15639)	1898
22827	7590	12/21/2005		
DORITY & MANNING, P.A. POST OFFICE BOX 1449 GREENVILLE, SC 29602-1449			EXAMINER HALPERN, MARK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1731

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/995,416

Applicant(s)

BAGGOT, JAMES L.

Examiner

Mark Halpern

Art Unit

1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 77-110 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 77-110 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1) A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/2/2005, has been entered. In the Amendment received 11/2/2005, claims 38-76 are cancelled, and new claims 77-110, are offered for consideration.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2) Claims 77-89, 92-110, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kershaw (6,348,131).

Claims 77, 85, 89, 94-96, 98, 110: Kershaw discloses a multi-ply embossed paper products, for example, paper towels, tissues and napkins (Abstract) and the method of its forming by depositing a furnish of cellulosic fibers onto a foraminous surface (col. 5, line 1 to col. 6, line 42). The said paper products are having ridges (or peaks) 44 and valleys 46 in a sinusoidal pattern (col. 7, lines 1-41 and Figure 4). The

paper products are embossed, which form bridging regions extending over at least two of said ridges. The embossing is in both the cross and machine direction in the form of a design, such as, a flower or a hexagon in continuous rows (col. 9, lines 26-54, and Figures 10-11). The embossing prevents nesting of layers of the paper product. Kershaw recites that when the peaks and the valleys of one ply are opposed to the peaks and valleys of an other ply a very thick, soft two ply can be formed. In this manner the density of the two ply web can be controlled depending on application for which the product is intended (col. 11, lines 9-20). This reads on the paper product being inhibited from nesting. In regard to embossing dimensions, Kershaw discloses embossing depth of from 15 mils to about 30 mils (col. 12, lines 26-30), a width of about 1 mm and an aspect ratio (length/width) of about 1.5 (col. 9, lines 55-63). The above calculates an embossing length of about 1.5 mm, which is equal to about 59 mils. Thus the length-to-depth ratio of Kershaw is in range from about 1.97:1 to about 3.93:1. It would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the claimed "length-to-depth ratio of from about 5:1 to about 40:1" be construed on 3.93:1 of Kershaw. See MPEP 2173.05 (b) regarding the interpretation of the term "about".

Claims 78-79, 85, 101: bridging regions are arranged in spaced apart rows as shown in Figure 11.

Claims 80, 102: the bridging regions length is greater than the width (col. 9, lines 55-64, col. 11, lines 40-45).

Claims 81-84, 103-106: Kershaw is applied as above for claim 77, Kershaw discloses a calculated length of an individual embossment of about 1.5 mm (0.059 in.), however Kershaw fails to disclose the length of the bridging region as claimed. It would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the length of the bridging region be varied and include the claimed length in view that the bridging region is an embossment and the design of the embossment controls its length. The same obviousness applies to the depth of the bridging region.

Claims 86-87, 107-108: the paper product may be stacked or rolled (col. 6, lines 10-14).

Claims 88, 109: it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the multi-ply paper of Kershaw is structured as a unitary layer and that the Kershaw paper behaves as a unitary layer that inhibits nesting between the layers as does the paper product of the present invention.

Claims 92-93: the paper product basis weight is from 5 to 40 pounds per 3,000 square foot ream (col. 12, lines 32-37).

Claim 97: the embossing may be both dry and wet (col. 6, lines 29-42).

Claim 99: Kershaw is applied as above for claim 98, Kershaw fails to disclose the embossing roll pressure, however, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the embossing roll pressure include the claimed range in view that Kershaw teaches that the embossing pressure is independently adjusted and varied depending on the pattern (col. 10, lines 10-19).

Claim 100: the embossing roll is formed from steel (Kershaw, col. 8, lines

Art Unit: 1731

20-30).

3) Claims 90-91, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kershaw in view of Cook (5,048,589). Kershaw is applied as above for claim 77, Kershaw fails to disclose an through-air dried paper web. Cook discloses a process of making a towel that utilizes the use of a through-air dryer 50 (Cook, col. 4, lines 25-53). It would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Kershaw and Cook, because such a combination would provide a product of superior level of qualities, such as softness, in the paper product of Kershaw, as disclosed by Cook (Abstract).

***Response to Amendment***

4) Claims 68-76, rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn in view of cancelled claims.

5) Claims 38-48, 51-76, rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kershaw, is withdrawn in view of the cancelled claims.

6) Claims 49-50, rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kershaw in view of Cook, is withdrawn in view of the cancelled claims.

7) Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 38-76, have been considered but are moot in view of the cancelled claims.

***Conclusion***

8) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone number is 571-272-1190. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Halpern  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1731